

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 SAM-01 AID-05 /068 W

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FM USDEL ALEXANDRIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 146

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM NIWOT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINFO

UNCLAS USDEL ALEXANDRIA 0189

DEPARTMENT PASS NSCE FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT AND NESSEN

JERUSALEM USDEL FOR ANDERSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJ: TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS BRIEFING BY AMBASSADOR BASHIR

AUGUST 31, 1975

AMBASSADOR BASHIR: IT SEEMS OUR STAY IN MONTAZA, PALESTINE HOTEL, WILL NOT BE FOR LONG AFTER ALL. (APPLAUSE). THE MEETING BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND DR. KISSINGER STARTED AT 4:10 PM IN A PRIVATE MEETING -- ENDED ABOUT 4:30 PM. THEN THE TWO PARTIES MET FROM 4:30 PM TILL 7:30 IN A CONTINUOUS INTENSIVE MEETING. INTERRUPTED SOMETIMES BY SIDE TALKS BY THREE OR FOUR. THERE HAS BEEN FURTHER PROGRESS ON THE ISSUES OUTSTANDING FROM LAST TIME. ON THE AMERICAN PROPOSAL, I THINK THIS IS AGREED UPON. I FEEL WE ARE NOT GOING TO STAY MANY MORE NIGHTS HERE. I

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THINK WE WILL NOT BE MEETING EACH OTHER IN THIS HOTEL

(INTERRUPTION: IN GENEVA?) FOR MANY MORE NIGHTS. I THINK ON THE WHOLE IF THE ISRAELI SIDE DOES NOT PUT ANY LAST MINUTE DIFFICULTIES, THE AGREEMENT AND THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED SHOULD HAVE FAIR SAILING.

Q: WAS ANY DATE FIXED FOR THE SIGNATURE OF THE AGREEMENT?

AMBASSADOR BACHIR: WILL THE INITIALING WILL COME AS SOON AS THE OTHER SIDE APPROVES THE LAST DRAFTING OF THE POINTS THAT WERE IN DISPUTE.

Q: SO YOU THINK THAT THIS IS DR. KISSINGER'S LAST NEGOTIATING VISIT TO EGYPT. THIS IS HIS LAST VISIT WHICH HE WILL HAVE TO DO NEGOTIATING WORK?

AMBASSADOR BASHIR: IF THE OTHER SIDE AGREES TO THE DRAFTS, THEN IT COULD BE HIS LAST NEGOTIATING VISIT.

Q: WHAT IS THE AMERICAN PROPOSAL?

AMBASSADOR BASHIR: THIS IS THE AMERICAN PROPOSAL REGARDING THE WORKING OF THE TECHNICIANS.

Q: AND THIS IS AGREED UPON?

AMBASSADOR BASHIR: THIS IS FINISHED.

Q: NOW IS THIS STRICTLY BETWEEN EGYPT AND THE UNITED STATES?

AMBASSADOR BASHIR: YES.

Q: YOU MEAN THE SENSITIVE PARTS YOU WERE REFERRING TO YESTERDAY AND DIFFICULT COMPLICATIONS?

AMBASSADOR BASHIR: IF THERE IS TANGIBLE AND FURTHER PROGRESS ACHIEVED ON THAT. THERE ARE SOME POINTS THAT NEED THE ISRAELI APPROVAL, SOME DRAFTING, BUT THAT WOULD AWAIT DR. KISSINGER'S VISIT. WE HAVE MADE TANGIBLE PROGRESS IN TACKLING THESE PROBLEMS.

Q: HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE REACTION?

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AMBASSADOR BASHIR: I AM WAITING FOR THE REACTION. OTHERWISE I'LL TELL YOU THE AGREEMENT IS CONCLUDED. I HAVE NOT SAID THAT YET. (MANY QUESTIONS AT THE SAME TIME)

AMBASSADOR BASHIR: ONE QUESTION AT A TIME.

Q: ASSUMING THAT THE ISRAELI REACTION IS FAVORABLE, WHEN NOW,

SIR, WILL THE AGREEMENT BE?

AMBASSADOR BASHIR: IT WILL BE VERY SOON. AS SOON AS THE REACTION IS FAVORABLE AND THEN - (INTERRUPTED)

Q: WILL HE COME ONCE MORE?

AMBASSADOR BASHIR: WELL, IT DEPENDS ON WHAT WILL HAPPEN BETWEEN HIM AND THE NEGOTIATING TEAM. IF IT IS FINISHED, AFTER THE ISRAELI CABINET MEETING, HE MIGHT COME. THEN WE WILL HAVE -- IF THERE IS AGREEMENT -- THEN THE PACE SHOULD BE VERY QUICK. MIGHT NOT BE IN DAYS, BUT IN HOURS.

Q: IF THERE IS APPROVAL ON THE OTHER SIDE, WILL HE NOT COME HERE AGAIN?

AMBASSADOR BASHIR: YES, HE WILL BE COMING AGAIN, ANYWAY.

Q: DO YOU KNOW WHEN THE ISRAELI CABINET IS GOING TO MEET?

AMBASSADOR BASHIR: IT IS SCHEDULED FOR TOMORROW. TOMORROW MORNING SOMETIME.

Q: SIR, THE POINT RAISED IN THE QUESTIONS TODAY ABOUT THE TROOPS, THE NUMBER OF EGYPTIAN TROOPS, IN THE LIMITED AREA -- HAS THIS BEEN SETTLED?

AMBASSADOR BASHIR: I SAID MOST OF THE PROBLEMS THAT WERE REMAINING FROM LAST TIME, MOST OF THEM HVE BEEN RESOLVED. AND SOME POINTS THAT HAVE NOT -- THAT WE HAVE JUST SENT WITH DR. KISSINGER ARE AWAITING AN ANSWER, BUT MOST OF THEM HAVE BEEN RESOLVED.

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Q: HAS THE LEVEL OF SIGNING BEEN DETERMINED YET AND THE VENUE?

AMBASSADOR BASHIR: THE INITIALLING WILL BE -- IF, THERE IS AGREEMENT ON THESE -- THERE WILL BE INITIALING HERE AND I THINK ONE OR TWO MEN WILL BE WATCHING. ON THE EGYPTIAN SIDE, I THINK THE CHIEF OF STAFF AND WITH HIM. BUT BASICALLY THE CHIEF OF STAFF.

Q: WHEN YOU MEAN HERE, DO YOU MEAN THE PRESIDENTIAL HOUSE?

AMBASSADOR BASHIR: I MEAN HERE IN ALEXANDRIA. YOU MEAN THE SITE?

Q: YES THE SITE.

AMBASSDAOR BASHIR: YOU MEAN THE EGYPTIIANLIGNING. YOU WILL SEE IT WHEN IT HAPPENS.

Q: WILL KISSINGER ATTEND THE SIGNATURE, HERE?

AMBASSADOR BASHIR: MOST PROBABLY, BUT WE HAVE NOT COME TO THAT UNTIL THE ISRAELIS APPROVE THE NEW DRAFTS.

Q: TAHSIN, DO YOU THINK ITS LIKELY THAT THIS WILL GO BEYOND WEDNESDAY. IN OTHER WORDS, YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT THE VERY LIKELY INITIALING TOMORROW OR TUESDAY, AND CERTAINLY NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY.

AMBASSADOR BASHIR: I THINK YOU SHOULD ASK THE ISRAELIS. IF THEY APPROVE, THEN THE PACE WILL BE VERY QUICK. IT WILL BE A MATTER OF HOURS FOR THE TECHNIQUE OF INITIALING.

Q: WHAT IS DR. KISSINGER'S PROGRAM?

AMBASSADOR BASHIR: HE IS MEETING WITH THE ISRAELI SIDE. HE JUST LEFT. MEETING WITH THEM (TONIGHT) AND MEETING WITH THEM TOMORROW MORNING.

Q: TAHSIN, HE IS COMING BACK HERE TOMORROW MORNING?

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AMBASSADOR BASHIR: NO. WE WOULD NOT KNOW UNTIL WHAT TRANSPIRES THERE.

Q: IS HE MEETING THE NEGOTIATING TEAM OR IS HE MEETING THE CABINET MEMBERS?

AMBASSADOR BASHIR: HE IS MEETING FIRST THE NEGOTIATING TEAM TONIGHT.

Q: HAS IT BEEN DECIDED HOW LONG AFTER THE INITIALING THE SIGNING PROCESS WILL TAKE PLACE, WHO WILL DO THE SIGNING AND WHERE THE SIGNING WILL TAKE PLACE?

AMBASSADOR BASHIR: THAT WILL ALL BE MADE PUBLIC AS SOON AS THE INITIALING TAKES PLACE.
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Q: WILL DR. KISSINGER WAIT UNTIL THE CABINET MEETING THERE TOMORROW?

AMBASSADOR BASHIR: I WOULD GUESS SO, BUT THAT'S IN THE MORNING.

Q: BUT IS HE EXPECTED HERE TOMORROW NIGHT?

AMBASSADOR BASHIR: IT DEPENDS ON WHAT HE DOES THERE. BUT, I
FEEL OPTIMISTIC TONIGHT.

Q: WHAT IS THE DEGREE OF YOUR OPTIMISM, TAHSIN?

AMBASSADOR BASHIR: IT IS GOOD, NOT EXCELLENT, BUT GOOD.

Q: WHAT IS THE PRESIDENT'S MOOD TONIGHT?

AMBASSADOR BASHIR: THE PRESIDENT HAS MANY MOODS USED IN
NEGOTIATIONS.

Q: HOW OFTEN ARE YOU GOING TO INFORM US ABOUT PROCEDURES, SIR?

AMBASSADOR BASHIR: WE WILL INFORM YOU AS SOON AS EVERYTHING
IS AGREED UPON. BY TOMORROW, IF THERE IS POSITIVE RESULT, WE
WILL INFORM YOU ABOUT IT.

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Q: THANK YOU TAHSIN.
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